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2nd Place Essay: Called to Lead

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Timmy Mayotte

Reed Leadership Essay

Called to Lead

In Eric Metaxas's biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, he paraphrases one of Bonhoeffer's core principles of God's will by saying, "Being a Christian is less about cautiously avoiding sin than about courageously and actively doing God's will." Mark Batterson in his book *The Wild Goose Chase* says, "We need to quit living as if the purpose of life is to arrive safely at death." And Brenda Salter McNeil writes in *Roadmap to Reconciliation*, "Valuing reconciliation is not the same as actively engaging in a process that requires commitment and sacrifice." Are you catching the drift here?

God has not asked us to merely think of ways to impact the world around us. Nor has He called us to just say those ideas either. No. God says to us, "Well *done*, good and faithful servant." We must go and *do*. But taking action is often far more difficult than discussion. Often times we feel overwhelmed by the amount of work to be done, and feel pressured to make a difference in the world in an entirely new way. For those who already feel called to something that does not yet exist, it can be even harder to see how God is going to use you. Therein lies perhaps the biggest challenge in embracing one's call to leadership: not knowing how you're going to get there, but chasing fervently after the Lord's call on your life regardless.

As a biology major, I plan on attending medical school after graduation in order to become a physician. I'm sure most people assume I'm doing it for the money or the job security, but in reality I want to do it because I think of it as an opportunity to minister to people using gifts that God has blessed me with. More specifically, I feel God has called me to serve as an OB/GYN to women who have been trafficked. I'm also studying Spanish and plan to intern in a hospital in Chile this summer with the hope of becoming fluent in Spanish for my future ministry.

For me, it's intimidating to take on an entire illegal industry. There also aren't many organizations serving women directly in that capacity, but I know that God has called me to serve in this way. Because of this, I can trust in the fact that while I don't know exactly what my ministry might look like, how much I'll be making or even what country I'll live in, God has prosperous plans for me. He'll provide more than I could ever need in order to fulfill that calling.

I think that sometimes we can get too caught up with the "how" of the ordeal and not pay enough attention to the "who" of the ordeal. We have to remember that it's the Lord who laid the path before us, and it's the Lord who says to us, "Do not worry, saying 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'" For the pagans run after such things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself."

When we are faced with the challenge of embracing leadership in a world that expects so much from us, it's normal to wonder about how God is going to make things happen. But the true obstacle, the one we all must overcome when pursuing the Lord's will for our lives, is in the midst of doubt or uncertainty, we must trust in His plan and diligently follow where the Holy Spirit leads.